

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend the claims as follows:

Please cancel Claims 3-6.

1. (Currently Amended) A powdered thickener preparation produced by forming a solution, suspension or melt of a mixture comprising
  - a) at least one urethane group-containing, water-soluble or water-dispersible thickener,
  - b) at least one water-soluble substance solid at room temperature
  - c) optionally a non-ionic, aromatic or aliphatic emulsifier and
  - d) optionally other auxiliary substances and subsequently converting the products obtained into powder form by drying or grinding.
2. (Original) The thickener preparation of claim 1 wherein component (b) is a water-insoluble substance with an average particle size of  $< 20 \mu\text{m}$ .
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Cancelled)
5. (Cancelled)
6. (Cancelled)
7. (Original) The thickener preparation of claim 1 wherein component (b) comprises cellulose, sugar or a water-soluble carbohydrate.
8. (Original) The thickener preparation of claim 1 wherein component (b) comprises a water-soluble (co)polymer salt of acrylic, methacrylic or aspartic acid.
9. (Original) The thickener preparation of claim 1 wherein component (b) comprises urea.
10. (Original) A process for adjusting the rheological properties of aqueous systems by adding the thickener preparation of claim 1 to the aqueous system.
11. (Original) A composition of matter containing the thickener preparation of claim 1.
12. (Currently Amended) The composition of matter of claim 11, wherein the composition is an aqueous automotive and industrial lacquer, a stucco- or other paint, a printing ink or a textile dye, a pigment printing paste, an aqueous pharmaceutical and cosmetic formulation, a plant protection formulation, a filler or a

Mo 6803

-2-

pigment dispersion, a preparation of a detergent, adhesive, wax ~~waxe~~ or polish or a preparation for petroleum extraction.

Mo 6803

-3-